



City of Hot Springs Public Safety Committee – Minutes of Meeting

Date and Time of Meeting: Thursday May 2, 2024; 2:00 p.m.

Location of Meeting: Hot Springs Public Library Conference Room; 2005 Library Drive

Call to Order and Roll Call

Members present: Alderman Bill Lukens; Alderman J.R. Huddleston; Alderwoman Debra Johnston; Alderman Larry Pratt; Mayor Bob Nelson; Chief Ross Norton; City Safety Coordinator Lori Sherrard

Members of the Public

- Gary Telkamp

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as published

Communications from the Public

- Two issues we brought out from calls received from the public:
 - Food trucks and trailers at Big Bat's potentially obstruct the view of traffic on eastbound Jensen Hwy.
 - Chief Norton will contact Big Bat's to discuss the issue.
 - Is the parking lot north of the Depot available for public parking, and if so, can the contractors utilize it in such a way that more parking is available to the public?
 - Concern will be discussed with the contractors.

Update from the Police Department

- Chief Norton presented a weapons upgrade proposal. The project would
 - Modify and install red dot optics on the department issued Glock Model 17s
 - Procure short barreled long guns equipped with suppressors, and
 - Modify 2 of the existing AR-15 long gun to "training guns".
 - The handgun portion of the proposed project will address potential issues of officers using non-department issued hand guns, improve accuracy and ensure interchangeability of magazines during an incident. The long gun portion will enhance officer safety by enabling safer tactics for room clearing, protecting officer hearing and allow for maintaining verbal communication without the adverse impact of impact noise.
 - Converting two of the existing long gun to training gun will enhance active shooter and force on force training.



- The estimated cost for the entire project is approximately \$25,000 which would need to be funded by a supplemental appropriation. Insurance funds from the 2023 hail damage claims that were not utilized for vehicle repairs could be considered as the source of the project, though these funds are part of the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance.
- The Public Safety Committee recommends the Council fund this project going forward with the proposal and requests a motion to support this project be placed on the May 20, 2024 Council agenda.
- April call data was not available at the time of the meeting.
- Through April the PD has consumed 31.15% of their budget through 33.33% of the year

Old business

- The status of the seven items on the action item list were not reviewed due to time constraints with the Special Council meeting that followed the Committee meeting.

New Business

- There were no New Business items on the agenda.

Adjournment: 2:53 p.m.

The next meeting is Thursday June 6th at 2:00 p. at the Mueller Center Conference Room.